

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ~~fluorescent~~ low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising an end cap that is attached to a glass envelope with a sealing composition that comprises a silver salt compound, a gold salt compound or combination thereof present in a concentration in a range of between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams per lamp.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The ~~fluorescent~~ low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein said silver ~~salt compound~~ comprises silver carbonate, silver halide, silver oxide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~The A~~ fluorescent lamp of claim 2, wherein said silver salt is comprising an amount of silver carbonate in a range from about 0.1 milligram to about 30 milligrams.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~The A~~ fluorescent lamp of claim 1, wherein said comprising an amount of a gold salt compound in a range from about 0.1 milligram to about 30 milligrams, said gold compound comprises comprising gold carbonate, gold halide, gold oxide, gold sulfide, gold acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The ~~fluorescent~~ low-vapor pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein said silver ~~salt compound~~, gold ~~salt compound~~, or combination thereof is present in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The ~~fluorescent~~ low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein elemental mercury in said lamp is substantially incapable of interacting with ferric and cupric compounds present in said lamp to produce soluble mercury in a

presence of said silver salt compound, gold salt compound, or combination thereof substantially prevents the interaction of elemental mercury with ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

Claim 8 (original): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising an amount of silver carbonate in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp to substantially prevent the interaction of elemental mercury with ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge fluorescent lamps lamp, said method comprising providing a sealing composition between an end cap and a glass envelope of said lamp, said sealing composition comprising in a fluorescent lamp structure, between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams of a silver salt compound, gold salt compound, or combination thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein said silver salt compound comprises silver carbonate, silver chloride, silver oxide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The A method of claim 10, wherein said silver salt comprises for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge lamp, said method comprising providing, in a structure of said lamp, between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams of silver carbonate.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The A method of claim 9 for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge lamp, said method comprising providing, in a structure of said lamp, between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams of a, wherein said gold salt compound that comprises gold carbonate, gold halide, gold oxide, gold sulfide, gold acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein said silver ~~salt~~ compound, gold ~~salt~~ compound, or combination thereof is present in a range of from about 10 milligrams ~~and to~~ about 30 milligrams per lamp.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein elemental mercury in said lamp is substantially incapable of interacting with ferric and cupric compounds present in said lamp to produce soluble mercury in a presence of said silver ~~salt~~ compound, gold ~~salt~~ compound, or combination thereof ~~substantially prevents the interaction of elemental mercury with ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.~~

Claim 16 (original): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in mercury vapor discharge lamps comprising providing an amount of silver carbonate in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp to substantially prevent the formation of ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

Claim 17 (new): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a material selected from the group consisting of silver compounds, gold compounds, and combinations thereof; said material being encapsulated and disposed at a location selected from the group consisting of a base of said lamp and an interior of said lamp.

Claim 18 (new): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a material selected from the group consisting of silver compounds, gold compounds, and combinations thereof; said material being disposed at a base of said mercury vapor discharge.